

Appln No. 10/647,096
Amdt date April 13, 2006
Reply to Office action of November 16, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 1 line 26 with the following new paragraph:

The present invention provides a spacer for bone defects comprising a tubular jacket, preferably with recesses, and having a first rim on its first end face and a second rim on its opposite second end face wherein one of the ends of the tubular jacket is modified to form a tapered section. The invention also provides a method for the manufacture of the tubular spacer for bone defects wherein the spacer is formed by making or providing a cylinder of jacket material, cutting the jacket material to a desired length and modifying the opening of a rim at one end of the cylinder.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 2 with the following new paragraph:

In one embodiment embodiment, the spacer is formed by expansion of a cylinder with the expansion commencing at one end. In another embodiment of the invention, the spacer is formed by narrowing of a cylinder with the narrowing commencing at one end. In yet another embodiment, the spacer is made by an expansion proceeding from one end of the cylinder and a narrowing proceeding from the other end.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 8 with the following new paragraph:

Thus, the cross-section of the expanded and/or narrowed portions of the spacer differs from the cross-section of the original cylinder of jacket material. In some preferred embodiments, a certain portion of the spacer has a cross section that remains unchanged [[form]] from the original cylinder of jacket material.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 19 with the following new paragraph:

Initially, preferably jacket 1 is provided in the shape of a right circular cylinder 9. The jacket wall preferably is unthreaded and provided with rhomboid-shaped recesses 3, 4 having a longitudinal diagonal that extends parallel to jacket axis 2. Thus, the horizontal diagonal of the

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rhomboid extends in a plane perpendicular to the axis 2. Adjacent rows of these rhomboid-shaped recesses are staggered along jacket axis 2 by one-half the height (i.e., longitudinal length) of the rhomboid. This arrangement provides for the generation of a network of banded strips 5, 6 which intersect at an acute angle, the banded strips 5, 6 being inclined with respect to the longitudinal diagonal of rhomboids 3, 4 with identical angles of inclination. Upper rim 7 and lower rim 8 both extend in a plane orthogonal to longitudinal axis 2.